

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY TUNIS IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS STATE 083015

FOLLOWING REPEAT HAMBRUG 0139 SENT ACTION SECSTATE INFO
BARCELONA MADRID JAN 27.
QUOTE UNCLAS HAMBURG 0139

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CASC, GW (ROWE, STEPHEN CHARLES)

SUBJECT: W/W: STEPHEN CHARLES ROWE, 2/22/38, NEW YORK

REF: STATE 21217

1. RUDOLF ROTHILIUS (NOT ROTHE) AND HIS BROTHER-IN-LAW ALFRED STEIN MET ROWE IN OCTOBER 1977 IN BRUNSBUETTTELKOOG, GERMANY, A SMALL PORT OF THE MOUTH OF THE ELBE RIVER WHERE THE KIEL CANAL ENTERS INTO THE RIVER AND THE NORTH SEA, APPROXIMATELY FIFTY MILES NORTH-WEST OF HAMBURG. ROWE'S TRIMARON AND THE TWO GERMANS' SAIL BOAT WERE LYING NEXT TO EACH OTHER IN THE PORT AND THEY SPENT AN EVENING TOGETHER.

2. SOME PHOTOGRAPHS WERE TAKEN THAT NIGHT AND MR. ROWE WROTE A LETTER TO HIS PARENTS WITH THE UNDERSTANDING THAT THE LETTER WOULD BE POSTED BY THE TWO GERMANS IN HAMBURG TOGETHER WITH THE PHOTOS TO REACH THE PARENTS FOR CHRISTMAS. THE LETTER AND THE PHOTOS WERE THEN MAILED BY THE GERMAN FRIENDS FROM HAMBURG JUST UNCLASSIFIED

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BEFORE CHRISTMAS, PROBABLY ON DECEMBER 22. TO THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE TWO GERMANS MR. ROWE WAS NEVER IN HAMBURG ITSELF.

3. MR. ROWE WAS SAILING ALONE AND MR. ROTHILIUS AND MR. STEIN HAVE NO KNOWLEDGE OF ANY FRIENDS OF ROWE. HE TOLD THEM THAT HE HAD BOUGHT THE TRIMARON IN ENGLAND AND THAT HE HAD SAILED ACROSS TO DENMARK FROM ENGLAND AND THEN FURTHER SOUTH TO BRUNS-

BUETTELKOOG. HE PLANNED TO PROCEED TO HOLLAND, FROM THERE TO THE MEDITERRANEAN AND EVENTUALLY TO THE UNITED STATES. HE DID NOT WANT TO CROSS THE ATLANTIC ALONE AND HE HOPED TO FIND SOME COMPANIONS ON HIS WAY BEFORE LEAVING FOR THE UNITED STATES.

4. BOTH MR. ROTHELIUS AND MR. STEIN STATED THAT THEY HAD THE IMPRESSION THAT THE TRIMARON WAS VERY POORLY EQUIPPED FOR SUCH A VOYAGE. THERE WERE NO NAVIGATION CHARTS, HEATING OR COOKING FACILITIES, LITTLE SPACE TO STORE FOOD AND IT SEEMED TO THEM THAT MR. ROWE, WHILE AN EXTREMELY INTELLIGENT MAN, DID NOT KNOW HOW TO HANDLE THE BOAT VERY WELL.

5. IT WOULD APPEAR THAT MR. ROWE SAILED TOWARD SPAIN AFTER THE MEETING WITH HIS GERMAN FRIENDS IN OCTOBER, DURING THAT MONTH OR LATER. NO MORE INFORMATION ON MR. ROWE HAS BEEN DEVELOPED HERE, BUT WE SHALL BE GLAD TO PURSUE INVESTIGATION IF FURTHER INFORMATION GIVEN. KISELYAK UNQUOTE COOPER

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